Delhi Metro

*579. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether first phase of Delhi Metro is likely to be completed in time;

(b) if not, by when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) by when the second phase is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The project is currently 8 months behind schedule. The first phase of the Delhi Metro Project is expected to be completed by September, 2005.

(c) The second phase of the Delhi Metro Rail Project has not been sanctioned so far. As such the likely date of completion for the second phase cannot be given at this stage.

Funds for Total Television Coverage

*580. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has made funds available to her Ministry in the Tenth Plan to ensure total television coverage of the population;

(b) if so, whether her Ministry has pointed out that Rs. 4,000 crore would be needed to reach out to the remote North-East and the far-flung areas by the existing terrestrial network; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are considering to take to provide television coverage of rural and remote areas during the Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Although the 10th Plan proposals in respect of Doordarshan have not been finalized so far, it will be endeavour of the Government to provide adequate funds for expansion of coverage during this Plan.

A Sub-Group on 'Carriage and Technology' set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in connection with the finalisation of the 10th

Plan, had estimated that an amount of Rs. 3456 crores would be needed to extend DD coverage to 100 per cent population in terrestrial mode.

In terrestrial mode DD coverage is available to about 90 per cent population of the country (including the population in rural and remote areas) and this is expected to increase to about 91 per cent after commissioning of the on-going transmitter projects. This process of expansion in terrestrial mode will be continued in the 10th Plan as well. Alternative technology options have also been included to provide coverage to hitherto uncovered areas.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Non-Utilization of Funds for development of NER

†4073. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds allocated for the development of North-Eastern Region are not being utilized properly;

(b) if not, the details of work undertaken through the said allocated funds;

(c) whether it is also a fact that allocation of funds granted by Government to other State/regions have since been discontinued; and

(d) if so, the details thereof region-wise/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Development Programmes/Schemes of North Eastern States are being funded from various sources. Besides the funds allocated by the respective State Government in their State Plans, all the Central Ministries/Departments (except those specifically exempted) have been earmarking at least 10% of their budget for sectoral developemental programmes in the North Eastern States. Financial assistance is extended to the State Governments from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) for specific projects/schemes related to physical and social infrastructure. The North Eastern Council (NEC) also make provisions for infrastructure development projects in the Region.

The projects taken up from these various sources of funding related to development of physical and social infrastructure, especially education, health, drinking water and basic sanitation, electrification, road transport and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.